

# ALTERNATIVE FUEL VEHICLE INCENTIVES AND LAWS

## Why alternative fuels?

Nowhere else in the world is the value of the automobile and the importance of transportation more recognized than it is right here in the United States. The transportation sector has an enormous impact on our economy, our nation's energy security, and our environment. Every year we increase our dependence on imported oil - - which increases the trade deficit, costs us jobs, and undermines our national security. Moreover, emissions from vehicles are the single largest contributor to air pollution in many cities - - making our air unhealthy to breathe and increasing our health care costs. We can change this situation. Expanding utilization of alternative fuels offers solutions to many of these problems. The plan to find these solutions is Clean Cities.

## What is Clean Cities?

Clean Cities is a *locally-based* government/industry partnership, coordinated by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to expand the use of alternatives to gasoline and diesel fuel. By combining local decision-making with voluntary action by *partners*, the “grass-roots” approach of Clean Cities departs from traditional “top-down” federal programs. It creates an effective plan, carried out at the local level, for creating a sustainable, nationwide alternative fuels market.

## How does Clean Cities work?

Clean Cities builds on local initiative, provides options to local problems, and creates partnerships as the mechanism to develop solutions. Clean Cities works directly with local businesses and governments to shepherd them through the goal-setting, coalition-building, and commitments process necessary to establish the foundations for a viable alternative fuels market. Then, by sharing local innovation along the Clean Cities network “mayor-to-mayor,” by relating local problems to state and federal objectives, and by providing continuous feedback to the 2,000 industry and government stakeholders, Clean Cities can continually pioneer innovations and aspire to effect national as well as local achievements. DOE will be working with Clean Cities coalitions nationwide to:

- **Create new jobs and commercial opportunities** - Alternative fuels and alternative fuel vehicles (AFVs) can benefit the economy in many ways. Converting conventional vehicles to AFVs, developing new technologies and products, utilizing domestically-produced alternative fuels, increasing crop (feedstock) production, and expanding alternative fuel infrastructure create commercial opportunities, new jobs, and businesses nationwide.
- **Facilitate alternative fuel vehicle production and conversion** - By pledging AFV acquisitions through the year 2005, the 2,000 registered Clean Cities stakeholders have shown that significant demand exists for these vehicles. Clean Cities will work to transform these pledges into validated vehicle acquisition and conversion plans useful to manufacturers challenged to develop market-driven production lines.
- **Advance Clean Air objectives** - The Clean Cities Program will advance the objectives of the Clean Air Act and seek to integrate its 1990 Amendments into each Clean City coalition's decision-making process.
- **Increase public awareness** - Clean Cities will pursue an active public education campaign to ensure that citizens are aware of the benefits of using alternative fuels over gasoline and diesel.
- **Provide greater fuel choices** - The variety of fuel choices has enabled Clean Cities to choose the alternative fuels that best serve their local community and economy. This choice gives the community an opportunity to utilize the fuels which provide them with the best fuel performance, reduced emissions, and financial incentives.
- **Develop “Clean Corridors”** - Clean Cities recognizes the need for “clean corridors” and will build links between existing Clean Cities to ensure that refueling facilities will be available for regional transit.

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### *How does Clean Cities work? (cont.)*

- **Expand refueling infrastructure** - Concurrent with Clean Cities expansion of the AFV market, the program will build on fuel supplier commitments to provide the refueling infrastructure critical for service and maintenance of AFVs. In addition, the program will seek to make available existing private refueling stations for wider use.
- **Support regulated fleets** - Through the Clean Cities Program, DOE will be able to provide local assistance to Federal and state requirements for AFV acquisitions and conversions.

### *Where do I get more information?*

The Clean Cities Hotline (toll-free (800) CCITIES) provides answers to questions on funding, alternative fuel and AFV questions, program planning, and other program issues. The Hotline also makes available several resources for Clean Cities use, including the following publications:

- *The Road to Clean Cities* provides cities with step-by-step instructions on how to become a Clean City.
- *Clean Cities Troubleshooting Guide* offers helpful suggestions on solving the challenges Clean Cities may face.
- Clean Cities newsletter, *The Drive*, provides cities with quarterly updates on the Clean Cities Program.

DOE has also appointed Clean Cities Program managers at each of the DOE Regional Support Offices to assist local Clean Cities with their alternative fuels market development. In addition, the vast network of local Clean Cities coordinators is available to share information and provide assistance. The names and phone numbers of the Clean Cities coordinators and the Clean Cities Program managers at the DOE Regional Support Offices are listed in this document, under the appropriate state's Points of Contact section.

To obtain more information, contact the Clean Cities Hotline at (800) CCITIES, or write to: U.S. Department of Energy, EE-34, Clean Cities Program, 1000 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20585. Visit the Clean Cities Home Page on the Internet. The Clean Cities Home Page can be accessed at:

- <http://www.ccities.doe.gov>



Throughout this guide, states with one or more designated Clean Cities are indicated by this Clean Cities symbol.

Cities that have coalitions working toward designation are listed under the appropriate state as Future Clean Cities.